



For Immediate Release
October 27, 2020

TAHC Addresses Chronic Wasting Disease Zones at Commission Meeting

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled commission meeting by live audio and teleconference call on September 22, 2020.

The Commission adopted amendments to Title 4, Texas Administrative Code §40.6, concerning chronic wasting disease (CWD) Movement Restriction Zones to establish surveillance and containment zones in response to CWD confirmations in Kimble, Medina and Val Verde counties. The newly adopted rules will go into effect on November 5, 2020.

Val Verde County Zone

On December 18, 2019, the TAHC received confirmation that a free ranging 5.5-year-old female white-tailed deer harvested in Val Verde County tested positive for CWD. Accordingly, the Executive Director issued an order declaring a high risk containment zone for portions of Val Verde County. The newly adopted rule will replace the Executive Order and establishes a Containment Zone and Surveillance Zone 4 for Val Verde County.

Medina County Zone

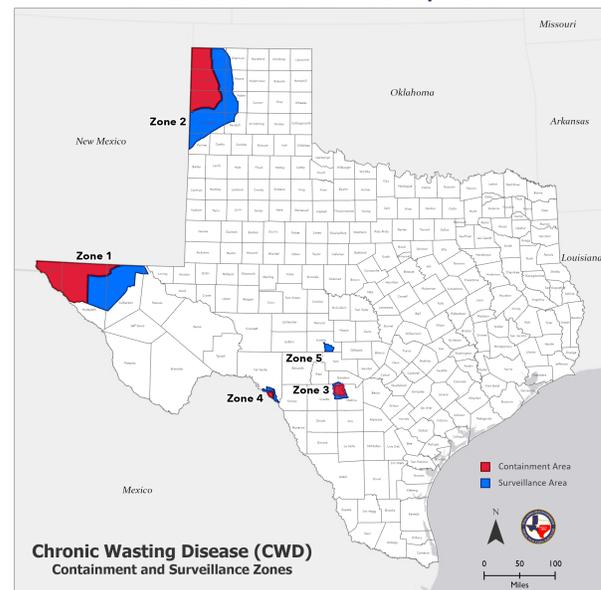
On January 28, 2020, the TAHC received confirmation that a 4.5-year-old male white-tailed deer and a 3.5-year-old female white-tailed deer harvested in Medina County tested positive for CWD. The newly amended rule takes the location of the two mortalities into consideration and establishes Containment Zone 3 boundaries in Medina and Uvalde counties and extends the surveillance zone boundaries in Uvalde County.

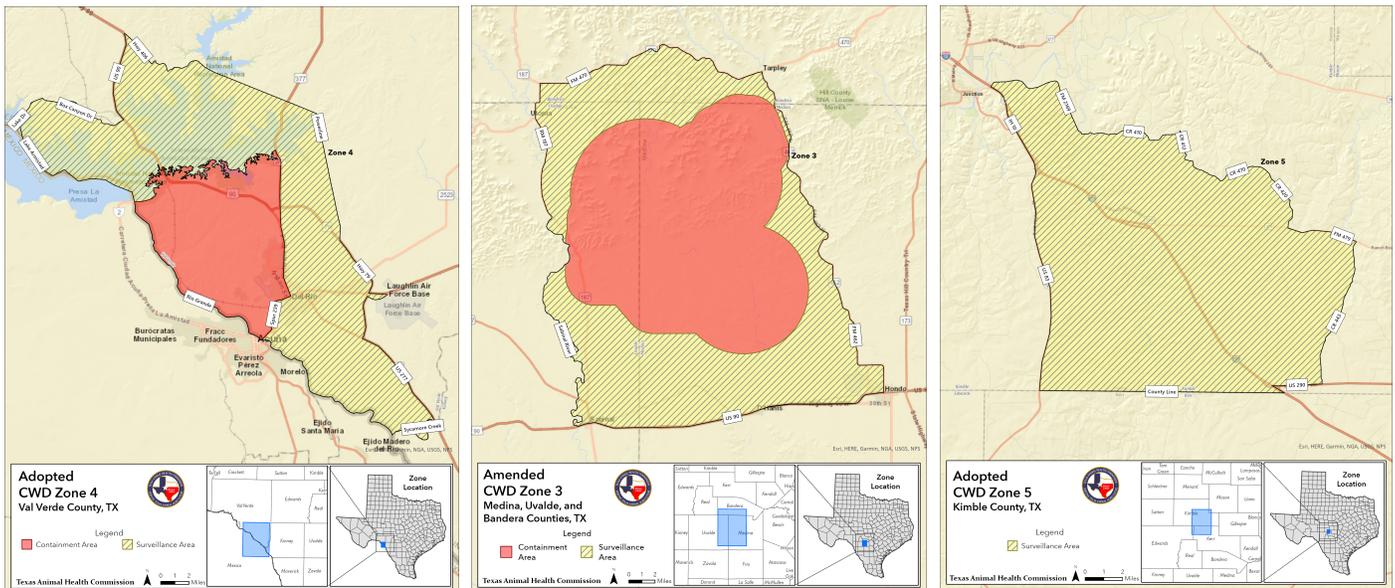
Kimble County Zone

On February 26, 2020, the TAHC received confirmation that a 5.5-year-old female white-tailed deer held in a deer breeding facility in Kimble County tested positive for CWD. The newly amended rule establishes Surveillance Zone 5 in Kimble County.

With respect to the containment zones established by this rulemaking, TAHC staff worked collaboratively with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to tailor the containment and surveillance zones boundaries to, as much as possible, follow recognizable features such as roadways and power line rights-of-way, and county boundaries.

TAHC CWD Containment and Surveillance Zones as of November 5, 2020





TPWD Requirements for CWD Susceptible Species Harvested within the CWD Zones

Hunters harvesting mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, red deer, or other exotic CWD susceptible species within the zones are **REQUIRED** to bring their animals to a TPWD check station within 48 hours of harvest. Carcass movement restrictions also apply to all CWD susceptible species leaving the CWD Zones. Hunters must check each animal harvested and receive a CWD receipt before taking any part of that animal from the CWD Zone, including any meat or quartered parts.

Exotic CWD susceptible species include North American elk or wapiti, black tailed deer, red deer, reindeer, sika deer, moose and/or any associated subspecies and hybrids. Axis deer are not classified as a susceptible species.

For additional information on carcass movement restrictions, [CWD zones](https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd), and TPWD check stations please visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd>.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.